



LIBRARY

THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1937

SECTION A.

1.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area 47.270 acres. Population (Registrar General's estimate) 11,110.
No. of inhabited houses 3,453 Rateable Value £35,082.
Sum represented by a penny rate £128 10s. od.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The occupation of the majority of the inhabitants still remains agricultural, but there is a slight increase in the number of persons working in factories. No great amount of unemployment exists.

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics of the year.

LIVE BIRTHS.	{	Legitimate,	Total. 138	M. 75	F. 63	{	149	Live Birth Rate per 1000, 13.4.	England & Wales, 14.9.
		Illegitimate,	11	6	5				
STILL BIRTHS.	{	Legitimate,	10	4	6	{	10	Rate per 1000 population, .90.	England & Wales, .6.
		Illegitimate,	0	0	0				
DEATHS.	{	Male,	102	{	193	Death Rate	{	Gross 17.3.	England & Wales, 12.4.
		Female,	91						

Death Rate corrected to make it comparable with England and Wales ... 12.28.

(A)	Number of women dying in consequence of child-birth	{	from sepsis ...	0	{	Rate per 1000 total births	0
			other causes...	0			
			Total	0			

(B) Deaths of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1000 live births, 60.4. England and Wales, 58.

Legitimate infants per 1000 Legitimate live births 57.9.

Illegitimate infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births 90.9.

(c)	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	24
(d)	„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
(e)	„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
(f)	„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services.

A. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—part time.

Sanitary Inspector—one—whole time. Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute. Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

One full time Clerk.

B. LABORATORY FACILITIES. No change.

C. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is no change in these arrangements. The ambulance, stationed at Sudbury and staffed by the Red Cross Detachments of Sudbury and Melford, has proved itself to be extremely helpful, and is adequately serving the district.

D. NURSING IN THE HOME.

All parishes are now served by District Nurses, who are also Midwives.

There are no arrangements for nursing infectious cases.

E. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

None maintained by Local Authority.

No change in those maintained by County Council.

F. HOSPITALS.

None maintained by Local Authority.

No change in arrangements for the admission of infectious diseases to Colchester Isolation Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Conditions in the Area.

WATER.

Water is still obtained over the greater part of the area from scattered wells. Chemical analysis of samples of water from these wells is done as required.

The schemes for a piped supply for the area are not yet in active preparation. A well has been sunk in Cornard and a pure and plentiful supply found, but no further progress has been made.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No change during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number in district at end of year :

(1) Privies 1,147. (2) Pail Closets 1,600. (3) W.C.'s. 350.

(4) No. of privies converted to pail closets 11.

(5) No. of privies, pail and earth closets converted to water-carriage system during year 0.

SCAVENGING.

No change during year.

SHOPS ACT 1934.

No action taken under this Act.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action taken.

SWIMMING BATHS.

None in the area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Tabulated Annual Summary for year ending Dec. 31st, 1937.

	Acton.	Alpheton.	Assington.	Boxted.	Bures St. Mary.	Chilton.	Great Cornard.	Little Cornard.	Glensford.	Hartest.	Lawshall.	Leavenheath.	Melford.	Nayland with Wissington.	Newton.	Shimpling.	Somerton.	Stoke-by-Nayland.	Stanstead.	Gt. Waldingfield.	Lt. Waldingfield.	TOTAL.
Complaints received ...	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	1	1	2	1	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	18
Nuisances detected ...	12	2	3	...	7	...	9	2	14	7	9	5	30	11	18	2	...	10	4	16	6	167
Nuisances abated by Statutory Notice served ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisances abated without notice served	12	...	2	...	7	...	9	2	3	6	7	3	21	13	13	1	1	9	...	16	6	131
Nuisances being dealt with ...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	...	8	1	5	...	...	1	1	1	...	28
Offensive accumulations removed ...	1	1	2	...	10	...	7	1	8	6	2	1	28	4	3	1	...	7	2	1	1	86
Houses newly erected ...	1	...	...	...	3	1	5	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Houses in course of erection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Houses disinfected ...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	11
Filthy Houses cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	4
Houses overcrowded (abated) ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6
Schools inspected ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	...	1	1	1	1	17
Schools disinfected ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wells (new) ...	...	1	...	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Wells (cleaned out, deepened, etc.) ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6
Samples of water taken for analysis ..	1	...	...	...	3	...	3	4	...	...	2	3	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	22
Privies (new) ...	3	...	1	...	2	2	4	3	...	...	1	2	3	2	3	...	...	3	...	3	4	36
Privies (repaired) ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	...	2	...	2	...	17
Privies (converted into pail closets)...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	11
Sewers (repaired, relaid, etc.) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ditches cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	6
Sink pipes disconnected ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	8
Drains (new) ...	1	...	2	...	3	1	9	...	2	1	1	...	4	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	29
Drains (improved) ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains tested with water ...	1	...	2	...	3	1	9	...	2	1	1	...	4	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	29
Slaughter Houses inspected ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	2	1	...	3	4	1	1	...	3	...	1	...	21
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected ...	4	1	5	1	3	2	3	1	6	5	2	2	10	5	3	2	...	4	3	5	2	69
Dairies and Cowsheds repaired, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	7
Animals improperly kept, removed ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Bakehouses inspected ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	5	2	...	...	6	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	20
Workshops inspected ...	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	1	6	3	1	...	12	3	1	1	...	2	...	1	1	45
Outworkers visited ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Outworkers' lists received ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of inspections and visits made ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1700
Letters sent out ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	800
House-to-house inspection ...	15	20	...	...	30	10	40	20	40	30	25	12	150	35	20	15	...	40	15	30	12	559

GEO. F. RAMPLING, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (1) Number of houses found to be infested
- (a) Council Houses ... 0
- (b) Other Houses ... 4
- (2) Number of houses disinfected 4.
- (3) Method employed for disinfecting.
- Cimex, or Sulphur Dioxide Gas, periodic treatment, fumigation done at intervals of three weeks.
- (4) Methods employed for protecting Council Houses from infestation.
- The matter has not arisen during year.
- (5) Disinfestation is done by Local Authority.
- (6) Measures taken by way of supervision and education of tenants to prevent reinfestation of houses.
- Instruction and inspection by Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS.

There has been no change in the sanitary condition and water supply of the schools in the area. In two schools the water has to be carried from wells on private premises, and in one the water is fetched from a public well.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

There were no epidemics of Notifiable Diseases affecting the schools to any extent. A case of Scarlet Fever, infected outside the area, attended school and 2 cases resulted. The carrier was discovered and the spread stopped. The other cases either were infected outside the area or were sporadic and could not be traced.

The Non-notifiable diseases caused the closure of several schools. The following schools were closed for Measles :—

Cornard 12 days.
Shimpling 15 days.
Nayland 10 days.
Leavenheath 10 days.
Shimpling 16 days.

These were all in the months of May, June and July.

Influenza led to the closure of Leavenheath for 12 days in February.

Leavenheath was also closed for Chickenpox in October.

SECTION D.

Unfit Houses.

I. INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	559
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	559
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..	...	...	...	...	...	126
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	126
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	126
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	241

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local Authority or their officers	7
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III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936.						
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	80
(2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—					
	(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	80
	(b)	By local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	0
B. Proceedings under Public Health Act.						
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	0
(2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit :—					
	(a)	By owners	...	...	...	0
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.							
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	5
(2)	Number demolished	...	...	...	...	...	0
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936.							
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	0

IV. HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV. OVERCROWDING.

In connection with the above Act, a complete survey of all working class houses within the district was made, and all habitable rooms measured and recorded. This was done by employing special enumerators.

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year							
		...	...	...	...	...	65
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	65
	(3) Number of persons	„	„	...	...	...	414
B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year							
		...	...	...	...	...	1
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year							
		...	...	...	...	...	6
	(2) Number of persons concerned	...	...	..	...	...	40½
D. Houses which have become overcrowded after relief of overcrowding							
		...	...	...	...	...	0

The 378 houses which were referred to the Local Authority as requiring attention have been inspected by an architect who has advised that they be divided into 5 Groups.

Group	(1)	Repairable cottages of artistic merit which should be preserved,	73.
„	(2)	Repairable cottages of some artistic merit which are worth reconditioning,	80.
„	(3)	Cottages of little artistic merit which it might be economical to recondition,	52.
„	(4)	Houses which were so bad that demolition was the only remedy,	137.
There are in process of being dealt with :			
	(a)	Demolition Orders which do not become operative until houses are built, which will not be until 1938—14 houses.	
	(b)	Clearance Orders 32, covering 106 houses, have been sent to the Ministry for confirmation.	
	(c)	Extensive repairs have been done in 2 cases. The rest are still under consideration.	
„	(5)	Cottages not included in the above 5 groups,	36.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK.

RETAIL PURVEYORS.

No. on Register	...	...	...	50
Number of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	360
„ Contraventions found	...	...	...	9
„ „ remedied	...	...	...	9

COW KEEPERS (other than retail purveyors).

No. on Register	...	...	...	20
Number of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	68
„ Contraventions found	...	...	...	14
(including those requiring cleansing and structural alterations).				
Number of Contaventions remedied	...	...	...	6
„ found to require cleansing	...	...	...	8
„ „ „ structural alterations	...	...	...	6
Examination of samples is done by the County Council.				
Number of Bacteriological samples taken	...	...	...	3

MEAT.

There is no Public Slaughter House.				
Private Slaughter Houses,				
No. Registered	...	...	In Jan.	In Dec.
	...	...	22	22
Number Licenced	...	...	1	1
Number of Inspections of Premises	...	...	380	
„ „ at time of Slaughter	...	...	300	

The mutual insurance run by the Butchers' Association against meat being condemned is working well, so that meat is surrendered if it is in any way of doubtful quality.

MEAT INSPECTION, Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1352	208	104	7800	13000
Number inspected... ..	450	69	34	200	4500
ALL DISEASES (except T.B.)					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	1	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	20	6	—	—	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	4.8	8.6	—	.5	6.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	4	—	—	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	20	6	—	—	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	5.3	14.4	—	—	.7

ADULTERATION.

Inspection under the Food and Drugs Act, 1928, is done by the County Council.

CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This is also done by the County Council.

NUTRITION.

No special steps have been taken to instruct the inhabitants of the area.

SHELL FISH.

There are no beds in the area.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 7 cases notified.

These were all scattered cases and did not spread. One in Bures was the result of a case, which occurred last year, returning to school too soon. Another in Bures was infected by visitors to the area, and another was untraced.

In Nayland there were 2 cases, widely separated as to time, one infected by a visitor and one infected by going away.

In Melford there were 2 cases in November, and neither of these could be traced.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case only which was untraced.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There were 4 cases notified. Of these, 2 were febrile diseases occurring at the time of childbirth, and one was a case of Sapræmia, and one was due to an abscess in breast.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1937.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	7	5	...
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...

AGE OF INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases.	Under year.	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & over
Diphtheria	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	3	2	...	...	1	...	...
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action taken under either Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 Public Health Act, 1936.



TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.				New Cases.				Deaths.			
				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under one year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...
15—	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
20—	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...
25—	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
55—	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total				5	4	1	6	0	2	0	0
				9		7		2		0	

R. W. RIX, M.O.H